IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the attached listing of claims into the application. This listing of claims replaces all prior listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A method of determining % N-glycolylneuraminic acid (Neu5Gc) of a biological material comprising the steps of: (a) measuring the amount of N-acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac) present in the material per given weight; (b) measuring the amount of Neu5Gc present in the material per given weight; and (c) calculating the % Neu5Gc of the sample, wherein % Neu5Gc is determined using the formula: % Neu5Gc=[(Neu5Gc)/(Neu5Ac+Neu5Gc)].times.100.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the ~~biological material~~ fluid sample is obtained from a food sample.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the food sample is a red meat or a dairy product.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of calculating the Neu5Gc content per serving by multiplying the amount of Neu5Gc in step (b) by a food serving size of a given weight.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the ~~biological material~~ fluid sample is a clinical sample.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the clinical sample is from an animal source.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the clinical sample is urine, tissue, blood or saliva.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the tissue is suspected of being diseased.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of repeating steps (a) to (c) at more than one time period.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the clinical sample is from a human or non-human animal subject, and wherein the subject undergoes a dietary change or therapy during the time period.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of purifying sialic acid-specific antibodies, comprising the steps of: (a) preparing antibodies to sialic acids; (b) contacting the antibodies from step (a) with a first solid phase to which a sialic acid having a side chain has been attached; and (c) contacting the antibodies that bound to the first solid phase with a second solid phase to which the sialic acid without the side chain has been attached.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the sialic acid having a side chain is selected from the group consisting of: N-acetylneuraminic acid, Ketodeoxynonulosonate, N-glycolylneuraminic acid, N-propanoylneuraminic acid, N-butanoylneuraminic acid, N-pentanoylneuraminic acid, N-hexanoylneuraminic acid, N-heptanoylneuraminic acid, N-oxooctanoylneuraminic acid, N-levulinolylneuraminic acid, N-homolevulinoylneuraminic acid, N-oxohexanoylneuraminic acid, N-oxoheptanoylneuraminic acid, and N-oxooctanoylneuraminic acid.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the side chain is removed using periodate.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of detecting an amount of anti-Neu5Gc specific antibodies in a fluid sample ~~biological material~~ comprising:

(a) determining the amount of anti-Neu5Ac antibodies present in the material using Neu5Ac as an antigen target;

(b) determining the amount of anti-Neu5Gc antibodies present in the material using Neu5Gc as an antigen target; and

(c) subtracting the amount of anti-Neu5Ac antibodies from the amount of anti-Neu5Gc antibodies to determine the amount of anti-Neu5Gc specific antibodies.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein step (a) and step (b) are performed in identical systems, except that in step (a), Neu5Ac is an epitope ~~the antigen~~ and in step (b), Neu5Gc is an epitope ~~the antigen target~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the fluid sample ~~biological material~~ is a clinical sample.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the clinical sample is from a human subject.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the clinical sample is blood.

19. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising an affinity purified antibody specific for binding N-glycolylneuraminic acid (Neu5Gc).

20. (Withdrawn) A method for purification of antibodies specific to sialic acid groups comprising: (a) exposing an antibody containing solution to a first immobilized target that has a very low density of the sialic acid under conditions to allow antibody binding; (b) challenging the bound antibodies with a second immobilized phase comprising the first immobilized phase treated with mild sodium periodate; and collecting the antibodies that do not bind to the second immobilized phase.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, further comprising indicating a disease risk to a subject when the biological sample comprises an increased level of anti-Neu5Gc antibody compared to a control.